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TITLE: Poly(ethylene terephthalate) with high molecular weight
PATENT ASSIGNEE(S): Teijin Ltd., Japan
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AB Polymerization of bis(hydroxyalkyl) terephthalate is accelerated by adding di-Ph terephthalate (I) [1539-04-4] to the reaction mixture in the final stage of polymerization, sep. collecting the distillate containing phenol [108-95-2] after the I addition, and cleaning the distillation systems with PhOH solvents. Thus, transesterified product from di-Me terephthalate 194, ethylene glycol (II) 130, and Ca(OAc)2 0.176 part was heated 15 min in the presence of 0.88 part Sb2O3 and 0.082 part H3PO3 at 240-260°, heated 45 min at 260-275° and 3-760 mm, and heated 90 min at 275-280° and 0.3-3 mm recovering II (total 62 parts). I (1.9 parts) was added to the reaction mixture which was heated 60 min addnl. at 275-280° and 0.5 mm, recovering PhOH containing II in a sep. tank (0.8 parts of 24:76 PhOH-II). The reaction system was pressurized to discharge polymer [25038-59-9] having intrinsic viscosity 0.94, and the distillation system was washed with 340 parts 3:97 PhOH-I mixture, 340 parts 0.15:99.85 PhOH-I mixture, and 340 parts 0.075:99.925 PhOH-I mixture in that order.